Meeting Changing Standards: Preparing the new NCATE/ISTE SPA report

The year all NCATE Institution and SPA (specialized professional association) reports must meet the new 2000 standards is now upon us. These standards require a new and different approach to familiar content. Even for those institutions that have previously submitted a review Folio, the approach to the new Program Review has been difficult and time-consuming. Conference attendees planning to submit either for NCATE accreditation for the first time or for continuing accreditation find them selves, as the panelists have, traversing new ground. Through this presentation panelists will describe the paths they followed and challenges they faced during development of required materials; they will also share insights to the issues associated with meeting standards under the new NCATE guidelines. Attendees will be provided with examples of how these different institutions addressed the program review requirements. Such examples may enable other universities to develop program reviews without feeling like they are "reinventing the wheel."

The program review report must present evidence that candidates have met the competencies listed and that the program can provide evidence it is in compliance with the eight teacher preparations standards for the strand(s) for which it is applying. The ISTE SPA program standards include two strands: Technology Facilitation is described as the initial endorsement program and Technology Leadership, the advanced of the two strands. As have many of the other SPA organizations ISTE has moved to require a performance-based review and evidence.

Each panel member represents an institution that has just submitted a review meeting the standards of their professional organization, in this panel each member has submitted to meet the ISTE standards for advanced programs. According to NCATE Professional Standards these are "standards developed by national associations that describe what professionals in the field should know and be able to do" (p.56). Each participating program representative will share their development experience including:

1. making the decision to submit to meet facilitation standards or leadership or both;
2. curricular decisions driven by the choice of which standards to meet;
3. admission and assessment processes resulting from new program review standards; in particular the design for assuring candidates admitted to the program meet the NETS-T standards, a prerequisite for the program;
4. issues of correlation to national and state standards;
5. interpretation of rubrics designed by the professional organization;
6. implementation of performance-based assessment;.
7. timeline for developing sufficient assessment data; and
8. data presentation in an online environment so that reviewers can access all that is needed.

Each panel member will present the main issues faced at their institution. The panel will encourage participation from audience members who are in the process of writing a SPA report and request questions from those anticipating the process.

Panel members include:
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Current member, NCATE Review Board member
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